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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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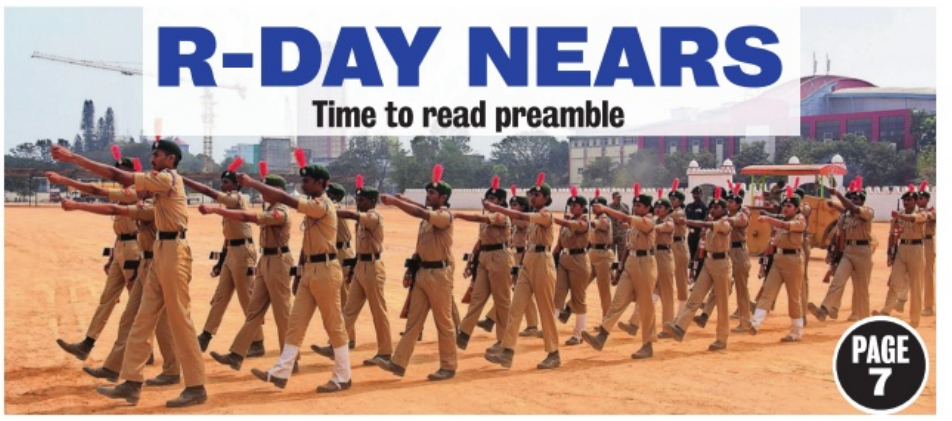
IN KIND
Animal cruelty awareness

PAGE 4



R-DAY NEARS
Time to read preamble

PAGE 7

How OTP from customers for buying food at Indira Canteens will deprive those who cannot afford mobile phones

HUNGER GAMES

'Norm to prevent misuse of maintenance funds'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been spending a lot of money for the maintenance of Indira Canteens in the city.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made a budgetary allocation of Rs 100 crore for the maintenance of Indira Canteens in the state.

Indira Canteens are to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner at subsidised prices for people from economically disadvantaged sections of society. There have been no complaints about the breakfast, lunch and dinner supplied at Indira Canteens but the latest tender notification issued by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for maintaining 46 Indira Canteens at Bommanahalli, Mahadevapura, and RR Nagar zones has social activists up in arms.

There are 16 Indira Canteens in Bommanahalli, 16 in Mahadevapura, and 14 in RR Nagar zones.

One of the norms, (37 on page 27),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

"Chief Minister must intervene before the OTP norm comes into effect
— AK Paul, Citizens Rights Foundation

Grate power

City to get composite fibre-reinforced polymer gratings

| Melvin Mathew
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In a new measure, BBMP is planning to upgrade gratings across Bengaluru by installing composite fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) structures.

Palike's new decision aims to check the corrosive property of steel gratings.

To avoid flooding on roads, BBMP installs metal gratings. Water seeps through the gratings and flows into the stormwater drains. However, civic body often encountered the problem of having to replace the steel gratings as they corrode over the years. After successful attempts with FRP gratings in Tender Sure roads, BBMP will now install all gratings with FRP material.

The material is expected to last longer and reduce construction time. While the civic body has implemented it before, for the first time, it is planning to build the whole unit comprising the gratings and bottom chamber leading to stormwater drains with FRP material.

The TEC wing of BBMP floated a tender for supplying and installation of the composite fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) water gully.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Architectural show

If you are an architecture enthusiast, this is a golden chance for you, as an exhibition showcasing architectural designs, drawings, sketches, 3D models, and more is being curated in the town. The Avani exhibition is being conducted by the Kozhikode-based Avani Institute of Design. The exhibition is meticulously curated to offer a captivating experience for academic enthusiasts and to inspire a new generation of architects. The event promises a diverse range of activities, including expert talks, panel discussions, hands-on workshops, on-the-spot events, and engaging events. An origami workshop is also being conducted today at 10 am.
Where: Chitrakala Parishath
When: until January 21; 10 am to 8 pm

02 Art of Odissi

One of the most renowned Odissi dancers, Madhulita Mohapatra, along with her student, Sahana R Maiya, is collaborating with established Yakshagana artists, Guru Shri K Krishnamurthy Tunga and Chithkala K Tunga. The performance is part of the 7-day Fusion Music and Dance Festival organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Bengaluru) and the Infosys Foundation. The fusion dance presents the traditional dance forms of Odissi and Yakshagana to retell the timeless saga of Savitri and Satyavan. **Where: Khincha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road**
When: Saturday, January 20; 7 pm

03 Sustainable choice

Enjoy an immersive and thought-provoking performance that goes beyond just a musical experience as musician and environmental advocate Sushma Soma unveils 'Home SOS: Sounds of Sustainability'. The event is a call to action to save our planet and has been curated to engage the audience with a captivating blend of music.
Where: Bangalore Creative Circus
When: January 20; 6 pm onwards

Outdoor fun beckons with a group cleanup

Indiranagar playground undergoes remarkable transformation; youngsters collaborate with BBMP pourakarmikas to clear waste and level mud at ground

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By the evening of January 12, the ground was adorned with attractive sporting motifs and distinctive blue-white triangle designs of The Ugly Indian, seen across the city

The Indiranagar Public Playground stands as one of the last surviving public playgrounds in the city, actively utilised by hundreds of young citizens daily. Spanning two-and-a-half acres in a charming residential neighbourhood (between CMH Road and Old Madras Road), this serves as a precious community asset. It holds particular significance for individuals without access to apartment facilities or those unable to afford formal sports club memberships.

After an initial joint survey conducted by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and The Ugly Indians (TUI), basic infrastructure problems were identified. Joint teams from BBMP and The Ugly Indians then executed the initial works, which included deep cleaning of all accumulated debris and construction materials, levelling mud in uneven areas, covering open drains spanning over 75 metre, and repairing flaws in the walls along with basic wall repairs. This comprehensive process spanned a week, and during that period, the message was disseminated to the community that positive change was underway.

On January 12, more than 250 volunteers from GT Indus actively participated in the project. Collaborating with BBMP pourakarmikas, they efficiently cleared all waste and litter. Additionally, the volunteers engaged in the cleaning and painting of all walls. Throughout the beautification process, the ground remained accessible for children to play, allowing them to witness and, in many cases, actively participate in the transformation.

As the day-long project unfolded, local residents, passersby, and members of the local administration had the opportunity to observe and join in if interested. This form of public participation, even if passive, plays a crucial role in sustaining community asset reclamation projects. By the evening of January 12, the ground underwent a remarkable transformation, adorned with attractive sporting motifs and the distinctive blue-white triangle designs of The Ugly Indians, seen across the city.

> **"There is so much energy and interest among the youth to improve their own surroundings**
> – a volunteer from The Ugly Indian

Over the next five days, smaller volunteer teams continued the job, ensuring the involvement of children and other regular users of the ground. This strategy aims to instill a sense of ownership among all those who benefit from the revitalised space.

Notably, a local cricket team took charge of cleaning and painting their cricket pitch and play area, while the football team enthusiastically contributed to painting their goalposts.

"There is so much energy and interest among the youth to improve their own surroundings. All they need is someone to show them the way and help them with some cleaning materials, tools, and paint," said a volunteer from The Ugly Indian.

A TUI coordinator said, "This is the best way to improve our surroundings and communities through public participation."

Meanwhile, the BBMP Solid Waste Management Assistant Executive Engineer said that pourakarmikas cleared garbage and assisted the volunteers.

Embrace the classical beats of Bharatanatyam

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In a spectacular celebration of Indian dance forms, the highly anticipated 19th Drishti National Dance Festival, organised by the Drishti Art Foundation, is set to unfold its mesmerising performances at Bengaluru's prestigious Chowdiah Memorial Hall on January 20. The brainchild of acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancer Anuradha Vikranth and her husband TM Vikranth, this annual dance festival has become a defining spectacle in the cultural calendar, not just in Bengaluru but across the entire nation.

This year's edition, themed 'Nritya Sandesha', is poised to elevate the festival's legacy by exploring profound life values through the emotive language of dance. Anuradha Vikranth shared her vision, stating, "We aim to use dance as a powerful medium for entertainment and education, endorsing crucial social and moral values."

The festival, consistently hailed for its creative presentations, world-class performances, and overwhelming audience turnout, boasts a stellar lineup featuring ensembles celebrated for their innovative work. Anuradha Vikranth's Drishti Dance Ensemble will unveil the poignant narrative 'Punyakoti', weaving a tale that highlights the virtues of honesty, kindness, and the significance of honouring commitments.

Praveen Kumar, leading the Chithkala Dance Company, is set to exhibit a production 'RutuVismruti' that delves into the urgent issue of climate change through the lens of Kalidasa, bridging past and present to shed light on environmental repercussions. Aayana Dance Company is set to provoke societal curiosity with 'Yellige', encouraging audiences to question and explore. The unique collaboration of the Sah Dance Ensemble, comprising Padmini Upadhya, Gowri Sagar, Sandhya Udupa, and Divya Prabhath, will present 'Shadripu', delving into the delicate balance of emotions for mental well-being.

Anuradha, reflecting on the festival's evolution, emphasised, "For Vikranth and myself, it has been a purposeful journey in presenting, promoting, and propagating Indian dance styles." The organisers envision an evening where audiences not only revel in the beauty of Indian classical dance forms but also leave with enriched minds. She added, "We hope the theme will have a deep impact, allowing them to broaden their thoughts and perspectives and contribute to society in a better way."

Safety struggle for girls continues in Karnataka

| Sridhar.Vivan
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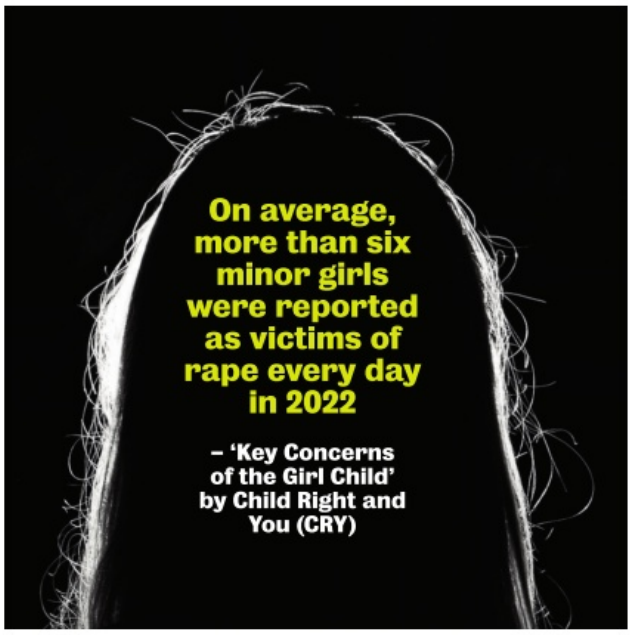
On average, more than six minor girls were reported as victims of rape every day in 2022
– 'Key Concerns of the Girl Child' by Child Right and You (CRY)

Despite advancements in various fields, the girl child in Karnataka still seems to be in danger. For instance, the NCRB Report for 2022 paints a grim picture of the safety of girl children in Karnataka.

Shockingly, 55 minor girls were reported murdered during the year, with four of them falling victim to rape and murder. Moreover, a staggering 2,300 minor girls faced rape under the POCSO Act, while nearly 1,000 others reported incidents of sexual assault or harassment.

According to a Status Report on 'Key Concerns of the Girl Child' by Child Right and You (CRY), on average, more than six minor girls were reported as victims of rape every day in 2022, with an additional three girls facing sexual assault or harassment. Disturbingly, many of these crimes under the POCSO Act were perpetrated by individuals known to the victims.

The analysis further said that crime statistics revealed that 2,268 girls became victims of kidnapping and abduction in Karnataka. Among them, six girls were kidnapped for forced marriages, and 12 were victims of procurement. This translates to more than six girls being reported as victims of kidnapping and abduction every day.

While the number of child trafficking cases had reduced significantly, two minor girls still became victims of trafficking in 2022. Fortunately, they were successfully rescued from such dire circumstances.

In fact, a staggering 568 minor girls were reported as missing in 2022, with an additional 255 reported missing from previous years. While 605 girls were recovered or traced, 218 remained unrecovered or untraced, revealing an average of more than three girls reported missing every two days.

Education challenges

The report said that the dropout rates among girls in Karnataka remained a critical concern. As per the UDISE+ 2021–22 report, the dropout rate at the secondary level (IX–X) was a concerning 13, stressing the need for targeted interventions to ensure continuous education.

There were health challenges as well for girl children, as the NFHS-5 (2019–21) exposed the prevalence of anaemia among young women aged 15–19, with nearly 50% affected in Karnataka. Urban areas showed slightly lower rates (48%) compared to rural areas (50.2%).

Despite over 99% enrollment at the elementary level, the net enrollment rate sharply declined to 67% at the secondary level and a mere 44% at the higher secondary level.

Insights from CRY

Analysing the report, John Roberts, the Regional Director of CRY (South), said, "Although successive governments have taken proactive measures to improve the conditions of girl children, data reveals that the overall situation is far short of expectations and demands for collective and concerted action."

Stressing the urgency to reduce crimes, increase enrolment, prevent child marriages, and enhance overall health and nutrition, Roberts called for a joint effort from the government and civil society.

He added, "Non-profit organisations, community leaders, and individuals can complement these efforts through targeted interventions and awareness campaigns. By collectively addressing challenges faced by the girl child, we lay the foundation for a more equitable and prosperous society."

Gear up for B'luru Int'l Film Fest

The 15th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival will be held in Bengaluru between February 29 and March 7. The closing ceremony and award distribution will be held on March 7.

The opening event will be held in the presence of national and international delegates, film makers, and other celebrities at the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the film festival.

The closing event will be held at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha. Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot will present the awards to the winners of the competitions under the Asian, Indian, and Kannada film sections. Regular screenings for the delegates will commence on March 1.

The screenings will be held on 11 screens at PVR Cinemas, Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, and also at Kalavidara Sangha, Chamarajpet, and Suchitra Film Society in Banashankari. Around 200 films from across the world will compete in sections like Asian, Indian, and Kannada. The list of films selected for the competition sections will be notified on the official website, biffes.org, by February 15. Films made in little-known Indian dialects will be showcased under the special section 'Unsung Incredible India'.

Centenary remembrance will be paid to veteran music composers Vijaya Bhasker and Sabu Dastagir, who made it to Hollywood from Mysuru. Homage to director Bhagavan, director and producer CV Shivashankar, playback singer Vani Jayaram, and actress Leelavathi will be paid. **BMB**

HC frames charges against filmmakers

A division bench of the Karnataka High Court has framed charges against documentary filmmakers Amoghavarsha JS, Sarath Champati, and broadcasters BBC, Discovery, and Netflix, among others, in a civil contempt of court petition.

The High Court framed the charges on Thursday in a case where the filmmakers and broadcasters are accused of disobeying a 2021 interim order of the court regarding the release and telecast of the documentary film 'Wild Karnataka.'

The original complainants in the case are: Ravindra N Redkar and Ullash Kumar. **PTI**

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RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

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Vice to virtue

The interpretation of vice and virtue in fiction, in the west and west-influenced performance art in the east, mirrors humanity's tussle between perceived good and evil.

It now digitises how civilisations and cultures have interpreted villainy just as triumph of virtue while we evolve as a collective culture.

Evil is often portrayed in western film with overwhelming intensity, associated with fury, dread, violence and gore, that it is singularly dark and lacks layers or explorations of character except in rarest of rare depictions.

Such is the homogeneity of villainy, especially in American films, it has now infiltrated the aesthetics of cinema elsewhere that may have had other approaches towards the portrayal of vice.

But there are exceptions. If you are acquainted with the works of master animator Hayao Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli of Japan, you shall see how something quite peculiar has emerged and has been evolving for some time.

Eighty three-year-old Miyazaki's latest film has just been released - The Boy and the Heron - which critics hailed for its autobiographical touch.

Miyazaki's villains, in almost every film of his, have a layer of dormant virtue beneath their skin made apparent as they come to aid the protagonists oftentimes.

For instance, pirates - Dola and her gang - in Laputa: Castle in the Sky, which rises above all works of fantasy ever made till its release date or the Witch of the Waste in Howl's Moving Castle based on British author Diana Wynne Jones' work of the same name are characters that start off as vicious and emerge virtuous as the films unravel.

These characters though villainous pull you deeply into the fabric of the film with their adorable mannerisms — no doubt masterful research may have gone into their making as opposed to the cookie-cutter bad guys of Hollywood.

Miyazaki's central characters and themes - mostly curious children, teenagers and nature in sublime detail - are fantastically adept at drawing virtue out of vice if anything of that sort exists.

This approach of treating perceived vice in film is hardly seen in western cinema.

At the same time, one can decipher how much Miyazaki is influenced by the west in his works as he upholds a superior philosophy for mankind through his moving illustrations alongside his love for the universe, human relationships and nature while transcending the rather petty east-west dichotomy. In the process he births ethereal creativity that perhaps no other filmmaker has achieved yet.

What makes Miyazaki further unique is his tolerant liberal aesthetic that borrows so much from the west

but holding forth eastern sobriety and essence even in evil characters and arguably diminishing the relevance of the question who is masterful - east or west.

Films of Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli are interwoven with Western motifs never underestimating their poignancy reflected in the undying fascination for all sorts of aircrafts/spaceships, western craftsmanship and music.

A treat of animated features - Spirited Away (2001), My Neighbour Totoro (1988), Laputa: Castle in the Sky (1986), Howl's Moving Castle (2004), Princess Mononoke (1997), Kiki's Delivery Service (1989), Porco Rosso (1992), Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind (1984), Ponyo (2008) - great works of Miyazaki now made available on streaming platforms are educational as well as fun for young adults and connoisseurs of animation film.

There are many more titles I may have missed that are worth mentioning from Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli. These are masterful works that shall be taught in film schools for depicting life in earnest with such meditative spirit.

Perhaps there isn't any filmmaker whose works are therapeutic for a society terribly obsessed with smart gadgets and social platforms that do not have anything to offer other than depression and mental agony.

In Whisper of the Heart (1995) of Studio Ghibli, screen-written by Miayazaki, 14-year-old Shizuku Tsukishima is given a gem within a stone in its natural state, symbolising the need to flesh out an idea or talent, or the need to come of age as a person, polishing the skill or material that is often found with rough edges just as the uncut gem trapped within layers of rock.

This underlines the need to further understand human nature, instead of bland/commercial/surface-level treatment of the west of every theme/idea or the zeitgeist of climate emergency and how filmmakers must radically alter their approach toward human ingenuity, endeavour, emotion, passion or spirit.

Each work of Miyazaki shouts out how different sensibility in film could be as opposed to western ways that have infiltrated screenplays around the world with shades of neoliberalism; even in films such as Avatar.

Perhaps the only animation films that always have had a running theme of nature are Miyazaki's and Studio Ghibli's that arrived much before Avatar was conceived. The characters are so well defined and charismatic that each work competes with the other.

BBMP to go all out to stop animal cruelty

In collaboration with NGOs, Animal Husbandry Dept to conduct awareness drives

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The Animal Husbandry Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is gearing up to take a strong stand in the animal welfare arena. The department, in collaboration with animal welfare NGOs, is launching an awareness drive to combat animal cruelty incidents in the city, especially those involving street dogs.

According to BBMP officials, the soon-to-begin awareness drive will focus on animal protection laws, rights of animal feeders, animal birth control rules, street dog management issues, and bite cases.

"The awareness drive is expected to start from April this year. The Animal Husbandry Department has signed two MoUs with NGOs, who will coordinate with various stakeholders such as BBMP, SPCA, city Police, Karnataka Animal Welfare Board, etc, and conduct sessions for the general public at ward levels," said a senior official from the department.

BBMP is planning to allocate a budget in the range of Rs 50 lakh to Rs 75 lakh for the project in 2024-25.

"We had set aside a budget of Rs 35 lakh under the 2023-24 sanctioned budget, however, we could not conduct the program. For this year, we are planning to get a higher amount. After the program is rolled out, we might come up with hoardings in public spaces to raise awareness about these aspects in the future," said the official.

The department will start with two awareness sessions every month on animal welfare, animal protection laws, and information on street dog bites in every BBMP zone. All together, 16 sessions per month will be conducted in BBMP limits. These sessions will be held in schools, residential complexes, etc.

"Most of the time, police officials are not aware of animal protection laws and rules around animal cruelty. There is a lack of awareness among stakeholders about feeders' rights as well. For instance, many FIRs are being lodged against feeders and RWAs in police stations across the city. Given the lack of awareness about these rules, both police officials and citizens land in difficult situations. These sessions will help them understand these rules in detail," added the official.

> **"Many times, police officials are not aware of animal protection laws and rules around animal cruelty** –Dept official

According to Dr Ravi Kumar, Joint Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, BBMP, the project to spread awareness is entrusted to the MAHE Trust, and the MoU was recently signed by the BBMP Chief Commissioner.

"The awareness program also forms a part of mission rabies. Sahavardin Trust has already started conducting awareness sessions for school children, teachers, and for the public without financial help from BBMP. These trusts are also helping feeders in filing FIRs in cruelty cases and feeder harassment cases," said Dr Kumar.

OTP hurdle at Indira Canteens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the tender is insisting the service provider issue the food by recording in the billing software, while issuing the food; the service provider should collect the evidence of the beneficiary on the basis of OTP confirmation received on customer mobile.

People from economically backward families, slum-dwellers and labourers prefer Indira Canteens to have breakfast, lunch, and dinner because it costs a minimum of Rs 5 for breakfast and Rs 10 each for lunch and dinner. The latest norm, though it is aimed at preventing misusing of funds meant for the maintenance of Indira Canteens, will deprive those who cannot afford to have mobile phones of food.

"Indira Canteens are meant to serve people from downtrodden, orphans and people from economically weaker sections. It is not justifiable to make OTP compulsory for the beneficiaries to have breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the canteens. The officials do not have minimum knowledge whether poor people and orphans have the capacity to own mobile phones. Because of this type of officials, Karnataka lags behind in getting its share of Cauvery water. The Chief Minister must intervene before the OTP norm comes into effect," said AK Paul of Citizens Rights Foundation.

Arun Prasad, a social activist, said it would affect the poorest of poor who can't afford mobile phones. "I oppose the norm of OTP. It is not a good idea. I demand the authorities concerned to cancel it," said Prasad.

Shekhar, a social activist, said the authorities are introducing the norm as they were not able to maintain Indira Canteens. "There are many slum-dwellers who depend on Indira Canteens for food. It is not correct to expect all the beneficiaries to have mobile phones," said Shekhar.

Amaresh S, trustee of Mahiti Hakku Adhyana Kendra, said Indira Canteens are known for financial mismanagement. "There should be a probe on the mismanagement of funds allocated for Indira Canteens," Amaresh said.

Meanwhile, HM Venkatesh of Naija Horatagarara Vedike, said the OTP norm would help prevent the Indira Canteen contractor making false claims on the number of people that availed food. "Nowadays, most of the people, including labourers, have mobile phones," he said.

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A normal monsoon ahead for Bengaluru

As city reflects on a challenging 2023 with rainfall deficits and unusual weather patterns, optimism grows for a replenishing monsoon in 2024 according to reports

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Thick clouds hovering over MG Road

Anticipation for relief grows as June approaches, bringing the much-needed monsoon to Bengaluru, where lakes remain parched due to last year's poor monsoon. However, the lingering El Niño raises uncertainties about the upcoming weather conditions.

Skymet's 'Preliminary Monsoon Forecast Guidance for 2024 suggests a normal monsoon this year, a welcome change following the 'below-normal' monsoon in 2023 attributed to the El Niño weather pattern. The report notes the recent shift from a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) to a neutral 'Dipole Mode Index.' The impending IOD event is expected to be 'positive neutral,' offering potential support to the southwest monsoon or, at least, not negatively impacting rainfall.

Jatin Singh, Managing Director of Skymet, anticipates the weakening of the El Niño pattern, indicating 'neutral' conditions before the monsoon, with a subsequent La Niña development favouring a robust monsoon in 2024. While the Skymet report provides an El Niño forecast for the next nine months, model accuracy is generally low beyond four months, especially during the upcoming 'spring barrier,' affecting ENSO predictability. A comprehensive April monsoon forecast will consider these factors.

In 2023, Karnataka faced an 18 per cent rainfall deficit, despite 88 days of heavy rainfall exceeding 70 mm. The state's annual average rainfall of 1,137.2 mm fell short at 926 mm. The South Western Railway, a major contributor to rainfall between June and September, provided only 678.4 mm, contributing to the overall deficit.

The northeast monsoon phase from October to December saw a 36 per cent deficit in Karnataka, with only 113.3 mm received against an expected 177.2 mm. Notably, the state experienced unusual weather patterns, including two heatwaves in March and a cold wave in January 2023 in specific districts. The highest temperature recorded was 42.6 degrees Celsius in Kalaburagi on June 3, 203, while Bidar reported the lowest temperature of 5.5 degrees Celsius on January 9, 2023. Five cyclones, two in the Arabian Sea and three in the Bay of Bengal, further impacted the region.

While the Skymet report provides an El Niño forecast for the next nine months, model accuracy is generally low beyond four months

Kempegowda International Airport reported 11 foggy days in 2023, reducing visibility to 50 metres. Bengaluru received 1,020 mm of rainfall, slightly below the average of 1,071.6 mm, resulting in a 5.3 per cent rainfall deficit. Six days experienced heavy rainfall ranging from 70 mm to 110 mm, with the highest recorded on September 1 at 88.9 mm. In May, the city saw 17 days of lightning and thunder. The maximum temperature in 2023 was 36.5 degrees Celsius on March 29, while the lowest was 12.8 degrees Celsius in January.

As Bengaluru navigates through these weather challenges, the hope is pinned on a normal monsoon in 2024, offering respite to the parched lakes and sustaining the region's water resources. The city's residents eagerly await the India Meteorological Department's monsoon prediction, hoping for a favourable outlook that aligns with Skymet's optimistic forecast.

24 km of Cauvery pipeline laid in Mahadevapura for stage V project

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The Bangalore Water Supply Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has initiated the Cauvery Stage V project in Thubarahalli village. In the Mahadevapura zone, over 24 km of the pipeline, out of the total 27 km, is reported to have been completed.

Pipeline work for the Cauvery Stage V Project, spanning 1.14 km, has commenced at Vibgyor School Road, Thubrahalli. Despite the project team taking necessary precautions, the work is expected to cause significant inconvenience to residents in the vicinity, and traffic congestion is anticipated.

Clement Jayakumar from the Mahadevapura Task Force highlighted, "As the road will be dug up, there could be a lot of inconvenience for the residents. Currently, the work is being undertaken during the night. However, due to the size of the pipelines, traffic congestion may occur, and residents might have to use alternative routes. Underground utilities might also be impacted, but different departments are working together in coordination to prevent any unnecessary damages."

Jayakumar further emphasized that the BWSSB Cauvery Stage V Project would bring an additional 100 million litres of Cauvery Water to Mahadevapura, in addition to the 40 million litres received currently.

According to BWSSB, water supply to 110 villages is expected to commence in May 2024, and the project has been ongoing for several years. Citizens in areas like Mahadevapura, Bommanhalli, Dasarahalli, and Byatarayanapura have been eagerly awaiting its completion. Of the 110 villages, 31 fall under Mahadevapura. "This is Stage V Project work, and 31 erstwhile villages would get water. Currently, 11 of these 31 villages are receiving water only one day a week with minimal coverage. The entire project is expected to be completed by May 2024, as stated by BWSSB officials."

It is anticipated that the works for the project in the Mahadevapura zone might be completed before the set deadline, and the remaining roads that will be dug for the project will be immediately asphalted.

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Stinky sewage
Vasanth Nagar

In Ward 93, on Vasanth Nagar's North Park Road, there is a manhole leaking sewage water, causing an overflow and emitting an unbearable stench.

Pole fixed
Mathikere

A hazardous situation in SBM Colony, involving an electric pole positioned almost in the centre of the road, was swiftly relocated by the authorities following its publication in this column.

Blocked roads
HMT Road

The deteriorated 60 ft main road in Ward 36, between Ramaiah College Bus stop & Diwana Palya Bus stop, poses challenges for two and three-wheelers due to heavy construction traffic.

Writing is on the wall: Time to read preamble

Delegation meets Transport Minister requesting that preamble be displayed across bus stops and in buses on R-Day

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A delegation from the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), Bahutva Karnataka and People's Union for Civil Liberties – Karnataka (PUCL-K) among other organisations have met with the Transport Minister, requesting for the preamble to be displayed across bus stops and within buses on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day on January 26. They have also requested for preamble readings to be conducted at bus depots and bus stops.

In a letter addressing the Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, the organisations requested his support in spreading the word of the Constitution across homes on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day. They noted that the road transport corporations (RTCs) receive immense support from citizens, making them an easy route to reach the masses. The organisations said that the country's progress in the past 75 years must be owed to the constitution, making it important for the public to be made aware of the ideals – equality, justice, dignity and freedom, ingrained in the preamble and promised by the constitution. They have also requested for the preamble to be displayed within metro trains and station premises.

KAUSHIK JN

Preparations for the Republic Day parade are on in full swing at the Manekshaw Parade Ground

The Karnataka government had also organised a massive event of reading the Constitution's preamble as part of the 'International Day of Democracy' celebrations. Social Welfare Minister, HC Mahadevappa, had said that the intention was to make the public, especially the young, understand the idea of democracy and the constitution. "They must know the purpose of the preamble, which is to lead a life with equality, dignity and freedom," he had said.

Civil society organisations such as Bahutva Karnataka and Tamate Karnataka had also organised preamble reading sessions in the city. Members had gathered in large numbers to distribute pamphlets and postcards of the preamble in the vicinity of Jayanagar Metro Station, on the steps of Town Hall, around Richards Park, and on Constitution Circle, among other prominent spots in the city.

One of the people who had attended a reading held at Jayanagar among street vendors said, "It is very important for the message of the preamble to be spread widely. It enables the masses, those who are subjected to injustices consistently, to live their life with dignity and seek justice in accordance with their rights, despite how grim their ongoing situation is," she said, noting that the street vendors joined in, despite being busy with their business during the Ganesh Chaturthi when the readings were held.

She added that bus stops, buses and metro rail among other units of public transport is the most efficient way to reach the lower and middle income groups. "If the transport minister acts on the request made, the readings will be able to successfully reach a large population of the masses. However, the government must also find innovative ways to reach the word of the Constitution to the elite population also, by taking measures such as making the readings mandatory at multinational companies and other such institutions," she explained.

> **"Those who commit these injustices must also be made aware of the ideals which were envisioned by our forefathers** –Street vendor

A street vendor from Jayanagar said, "We are constantly subjected to arbitrary evictions by the state authorities but are able to fight the injustice through the laws that have been carved out to protect our livelihood. The preamble empowers us to do so, making it very necessary for each of us to read it out loud in public, with pride, to keep these ideals ingrained in our minds as well. Those who commit these injustices must also be made aware of the ideals which were envisioned by our forefathers for us to live by, so that they can begin to treat each and everyone with dignity and respect."

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BBMP to install fibre-reinforced polymer gratings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The grating with the bottom chamber will be of size 450 x 450 x 450 mm and a load-bearing capacity of 40MT. Gully grating would have a minimum of 30% of the water entrance area.

"There should be a top abrasion-resistant layer of decorative dark grey finish. The cover should have a beam design at the bottom with thickness in the centre varying from 125 mm to 150 mm and should be without any reinforcement of steel or any other metal used in the construction of the product. The chamber should have no filler or reinforcement of any kind of metal and have a 150 mm diameter cutout. The chamber should have one circular cut of 200 mm diameter," the document said.

A source at the BBMP said the measure could drastically reduce the construction time involved with gratings: "A major problem with the existing gratings is that they corrode after 10-15 years. We won't be replacing the existing steel gratings with FRP gratings but all new ones will be made of FRP material.

Usually, the maximum load capacity is 30 tonnes; we have built the gratings to carry up to 40 tonnes. Usually, grating installation takes about 20-25 days but these reconstructed RFP gratings can be installed within 2-3 days. Compared to metal gratings, these gratings shall have longer life. However, subsequently, there will also be a 20-30 per cent increase in construction as well," said a senior TEC official.

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NEPHROPLUS Walk in interview Designation: Center Manager/Center Executive/Billing Executive/Staff Nurse Qualification: Graduation in any stream - For Staff Nurse (GNB) Locations: Thumkur, Kodagu, Virajpet, Somwarpet. Walk in interview: 1. Location: C/o NephroPlus Dialysis center, Nandi Arcade, 1 st Floor, Opp. NEPS, Shankarapuram, B.H Road, Tumakuru, Karnataka - 572102. Date: 21st January 2024.Contact Number: 9121200542 (Mayuri) 2. Location: District Hospital Kodagu Mysore Madikeri Main Road, Mysore Madikeri Main Road, Near G.Thimmaiah, Circle, G.T. Circle, Madikeri, Karnataka 571201, Taluk government hospital, Virajpet and Taluk government hospital, Somwarpet.Date: 21st January 2024Contact Number: 7893914422 (Navyashree)

NEPHRO Plus Walk in interview Designation: Center Manager/Center Executive/Billing Executive Qualification: Graduation in any stream Locations: Yelanhka, K R Puram, Chikkaballapura, Ramnagara, Puttur, Chikkamagaluru. Walk in interview: 1. Location: 1st Floor, above Krishna Medicals, 8th Main Rd, Koramangala 3 Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560034. Date: 20th January 2024. Contact Number: 9121200542 (Mayuri) 2. Location: Government Hospital, Puttur, Karnataka, 574201 and Government Hospital Vijaya Nagar, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, 577101. Date: 20th January 2024 Contact : 7893914422(Navyashree)

NEPHROPLUS walk in interview Designation: Staff Nurse. Qualification: GNM. Locations:Yelanhka,K R Puram, Chikkaballapura, Ramnagara, Puttur, Chikkamagaluru. Walk in interview: 1. Location:1st Floor, above Krishna Medicals, 8th MainRd, Koramangala 3 Block,Koramangala,Bengaluru, Karnataka 560034.Date: 20th January 2024.Cont.: 9121200542 (Mayuri) 2. Location: Government Hospital, Puttur,Karnataka, 574201 and Government Hospital Vijaya Nagar, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, 577101. Date: 20th Jan. 2024 Contact :7893914422 (Navyashree)

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I, Sudhir Subba Rao Powar S/o G Subba Rao R/o No 7 5th Cross, 2nd Main, 4th Block, Muneshwara Layout, D B Sandra, V R Pura Post, Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to S SUDHIR PAWAR for all purposes.

I, Sugesh S/o Krishnankutty and Rugmini R/o 323/317, FLAT NO-004, SOMA WHITE HOUSE APTS, Begur, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru, have changed my name to Sugesh Krishnankutty Nair for all purposes.

I, Ekansh Narayana Gowda S/o, D Narayana K J R/o No F502 Mantri Alpyne Uttarahalli Kengeri Road, Banashankari 5th Stage, Bengaluru, 560061 have changed my name to Ekansh Gowda for all purposes.

I, Krishna Khandelwal R/o Ajmera Infinity Block-E Flat No 1403 Neeladri Electronic City Bengaluru-560100 have changed my minor son's name from Yash Krishna Khandelwal to Yash Khandelwal for all Purposes.

I, Madhan Kumaraswami, R/o 13087, 8th Floor, Tower 13, Prestige Shantiniketan, Whitefield Main Road, Bangalore 560048 have changed my daughter name (minor) from Meghna Madhan to Niranjana Madhan.

I, Manoj Sreenivasa Gowda R/o # 414 BHD Vivekananda Ashram Hoodi Mahadevapura Post B'luru-560048 have changed my name to Manoj Sreenivas for all Purposes.

I, Khurshida Khannum W/o, Abdul Khuddus R/o No 4/1-1, 11th D Cross Padarayanapura Government Electric Factory Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Khurshida Khanum for all purposes.

I, Deepa C P w/o Ramachandra C R/o No 97, Ammana Asare, 19th B Main 19th Cross JP Nagar 5th Phase B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Deepa Ramachandra for all purposes.

I Shaik Yahiya Sultana W/O, Asif Iqbal R/o #2, Luqmaan, 8th Cross, 4th Main, Vinayakanagar, Vimanapura Extn, Hal Post, Bengaluru - 560017 have changed my name to Yahiya Sultana.

I, Bindu Desai S/o, Mohanarao Desai R/o No G31 Ground Floor Na Block C Pyramid Belberry Chokkanahalli Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Bindu M Desai for all purposes.

I, Chandrasekaran Sundari W/o, V R Chandrasekaran R/o No.6, 5th Cross, Sultanpalya, Rt Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032. have changed my name to Thirupoora Soundri for all purposes.

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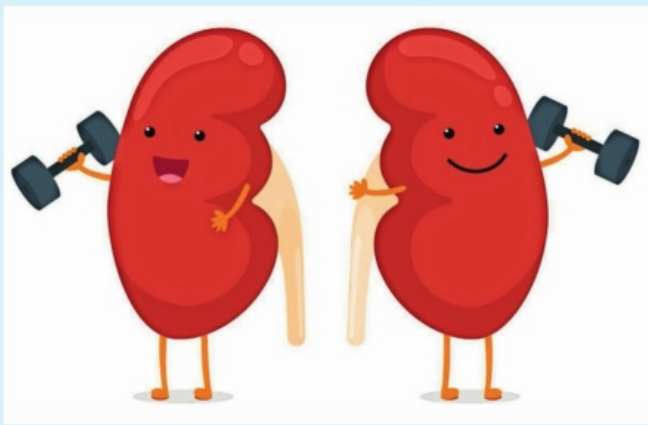
Regular kidney check for healthy score!

Doctors stress the silent threats of kidney diseases, urge preventive measures and awareness for early detection while highlighting alternatives and risk factors



City doctors emphasise the critical importance of kidney health, highlighting that kidney diseases are silent killers requiring heightened awareness and preventive measures. A senior nephrologist underscores the significance of spreading the message of kidney health on this day. Kidney diseases, often progressing silently, can result in kidney failure, necessitating dialysis or transplant for survival. Chronic kidney disease (CKD), prevalent and incurable, underscores the paramount need for prevention. Early detection and intervention can arrest CKD progression, delaying or averting the need for definitive therapy. The message resonates: "Eat healthy and stay healthy."

Ensuring kidney health is crucial, with the rising prevalence of kidney ailments demanding increased attention. An expert stressed the significance of maintaining inner strength through kidney health and urged the spread of awareness on this vital organ. Kidney diseases, often silent killers, can progress to kidney failure, necessitating dialysis or transplant for survival. Chronic kidney disease (CKD), prevalent and incurable, underscores the importance of prevention. Early detection and treatment can arrest CKD progression, delaying the need for definitive interventions.

Another expert highlighted the silent nature of kidney diseases, urging people to be proactive in kidney check-ups. The "kidney number" serves as an indicator of kidney function. Raising awareness about this crucial metric is imperative, akin to monitoring cholesterol, blood pressure, and sugar levels. Lifestyle modifications, including a healthy diet, reduced calorie intake, avoidance of harmful substances, and regular exercise, contribute to kidney health. The emphasis on awareness extends to issues of accessibility and affordability in dialysis and transplantation procedures.

Experts outlined symptoms indicative of advanced kidney failure, emphasising the importance of recognising these signs early. Anorexia, decreased appetite, taste loss, vomiting, leg swelling, breathing difficulties, abnormal sleep patterns, frothy urine, and elevated blood pressure are red flags. Regular monitoring is crucial, with skin changes and itching often accompanying kidney dysfunction. Dialysis can address symptoms, but long-term reliance may pose complications, particularly in older patients.

Certain individuals face a higher risk of kidney dysfunction, including those with a history of diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease, family history of kidney issues, unexplained anaemia, smokers, history of stroke or heart disease, and obesity. Regular kidney function tests are essential for susceptible individuals. Understanding kidney health and embracing preventive measures ensure a healthier future.

Alternatives for renal failure patients

Doctors highlight several alternatives available for renal failure patients. Some patients may prefer a less aggressive approach to treatment, avoiding options like hemodialysis or renal transplant and opting for more conservative methods to preserve kidney function, prevent additional damage, and enhance their quality of life.

"The recommended treatment plan involves monitoring and controlling electrolyte levels, including sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium. In cases of end-stage renal disease, if a patient meets the criteria for a kidney transplant, doctors strongly advocate for it.

A successful kidney transplant eliminates the need for ongoing dialysis, reducing the associated long-term complications and risks. Moreover, it reduces the financial burden associated with dialysis and offers a significantly higher life expectancy compared to those undergoing hemodialysis. Kidney transplantation leads to an overall improvement in physical health, exercise tolerance, sexual function, and quality of life.

Minimally invasive techniques, such as laparoscopy, are employed for kidney transplant surgeries, ensuring a simple and safe procedure with quick recovery, minimal hospital stay, and an early return to normal activities. Notably, even children can undergo kidney transplantation. The core transplant surgery for the donor nowadays is done using minimally invasive techniques of surgery like laparoscopy.

ADVERTORIAL

Preserving Native Kidney Health: A Vital Approach to Chronic Kidney Disease

The diagnosis of chronic kidney failure presents a significant challenge to both the financial and mental well-being of affected individuals. In the past, the lack of definitive treatment options resulted in dire outcomes for patients. Although dialysis and kidney transplantation are now available, financial constraints and a shortage of suitable donors hinder accessibility.

Chronic kidney disease is characterized by permanent kidney failure and irreversible scarring of the kidney's filters, known as nephrons.

Early stages exhibit minimal scarring, progressing to stage 5 when a majority of filters are affected. Early diagnosis in stages 1 and 2 is crucial for preserving native kidney functions.

Diagnostic Measures and Risk Factors:

Assessing kidney functions through blood creatinine tests, urine analysis, and kidney ultrasound is essential. Diseases like diabetes and hyper tension pose significant risks, making regular monitoring imperative. Optimal control of these conditions helps mitigate the risk of chronic kidney failure.

Managing Early Stages:

Early-stage management involves maintaining regular follow-ups with nephrologists, allowing for the preservation of native kidney functions and potential postponement of dialysis. It is advised to avoid unknown medications without nephrologist approval.

Dialysis and its Timing:

In later stages, recognizable symptoms indicate the need for dialysis. Early initiation, supervised by nephrologists, can prolong life. However, financial constraints and poor patient compliance often hinder this treatment modality.

Strategic Preparedness:

Foreseeing the potential need for dialysis, patients diagnosed with chronic kidney disease should plan for the future. Creating an arteriovenous (AV) fistula for dialysis access and ensuring financial security are crucial steps.

Kidney Transplantation, The Optimal Solution:

For those in stage 5 CKD, kidney transplantation offers the best quality of life. Live-related transplantation is preferred, but challenges like blood group compatibility and the scarcity of suitable donors persist. Advances in surgical techniques, including laparoscopic and robotic surgery, have improved outcomes.

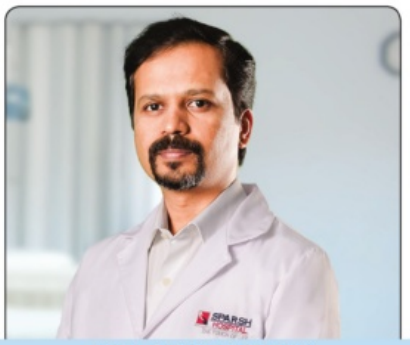
Challenges and Considerations in Transplantation:

The success of kidney transplantation depends on coordination between nephrologists and urologists. Cadaveric transplantation is an option, but the waiting period is long. ABO incompatible transplantation, though successful, may incur additional costs.

Kidney transplantation stands out as the optimal option for achieving an excellent quality of life and longevity in patients with chronic kidney disease.

Early diagnosis, strategic planning and advancements in surgical techniques contribute to improved outcomes, emphasizing the importance of timely intervention.

DR. RAMACHANDRA P
Senior Consultant Nephrologist
SPARSH Hospital, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore



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Everybody wants to find a plot in North Bengaluru

NHAI plans to widen road between Devanahalli and Kurnool to six-lane main carriageway; realtors see this development as significant push

The infrastructure in north Bengaluru is soon set to get a big push as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to upgrade the infrastructure. Currently, the road from Hebbal to Kempegowda International Airport (till booth) is a six-lane main carriageway with two-lane service roads on either side. However, from the airport, it is mostly a three- or two-lane highway passing via towns like Devanahalli without any flyovers to provide hassle-free movement. Now, the NHAI plans to widen the road between Devanahalli and Kurnool to a six-lane main carriageway along with two-lane service roads on either side. This

means the road will have 10 lanes in total. This road will also act as a connecting road to the proposed Bengaluru-Vijayawada expressway. Currently, it takes more than 12 hours to reach Vijayawada from Bengaluru, which is at a distance of 660 kilometre. The road passes via Kolar, Chittoor, and Tirupati before joining the golden quadrilateral till Vijayawada. However, as per the new expressway connecting Bengaluru to Vijayawada, it will be a mix of greenfield and brownfield projects.

Realtors say that the infrastructure will be a big push. "Currently, many are opting to buy plots and settle down in and around Devanahalli. With these infrastructure projects, real estate growth will further accelerate. In fact, connectivity is the fuel for growth. Robust road infrastructure projects not only ease commuting but also make areas more accessible, thus propelling the real estate market forward," said Ravi Reddy, a realtor.

Surendra Kumar, another realtor, said, "In real estate, neighbourhoods flourish when they are well-connected. Road infrastructure projects act as catalysts, creating networks that breathe life into localities. Improved connectivity translates to increased demand, making real estate in these areas not just sought-after but integral to community growth."

-Prakash VL

Metro to give Magadi Road a boost

Magadi Road is becoming a popular choice for property investors due to the availability of affordable plots. The upcoming metro line in the third phase is expected to further enhance its appeal. Realtors believe that the addition of metro connectivity will offer residents of Magadi Road an eco-friendly and efficient mode of mass transport to reach central business district (CBD) areas.
In the third phase, a new 14-km metro line will connect the toll gate to Kadabagere.

Sunil Gowda, a realtor, said, "Magadi Road benefits from excellent BMTC connectivity as well, with both BMTC and KSRTC buses serving this route. The frequency is so good that you can catch a bus within minutes. As more people prefer public transport over personal vehicles, many properties are located near bus stops to facilitate easy commuting for personal or professional use. This is another reason why many people are interested in buying properties near bus stops."

Overall, Magadi Road stands out not only for its infrastructure projects but also for its excellent connectivity and abundant greenery, making it one of the best places to buy property, he added.

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‘PRR is key to driving growth’

Realtors say that government’s initiative to position Peripheral Ring Road as business corridor signifies paradigm shift in Bengaluru’s real estate dynamics

There has been a fresh impetus to restart the stalled Peripheral Ring Road (PRR). In fact, now the government wants to promote this as a business corridor. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced, “It has been decided to rename the proposed Peripheral Ring Road in North Bengaluru as Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC). We will be inviting a global tender for the BBC within a week. Those who are losing land for the corridor will be compensated as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court.”

The PRR project is set to be a big boost for the real estate market. The PRR is to connect the NICE Road to the Nelamangala Road. Currently, the Nelamangala Road is served by NICE Road to Magadi, Mysuru, Kanakapura, Bannerghatta, and Hosur roads on one side. However, there is no connectivity to the other road, and the vehicle users have to use the congested Outer Ring Road. However, the PRR will provide connectivity from Nelamangala Road to Hesaraghatta,

NICE Road will be connected to Nelamangala Road by PRR

Doddaballapur, Chikkaballapur Airport Road, Old Madras, Sarjapur, and Hosur roads. Realtors say that as the new Greenfield Road is proposed, it will surely provide better connectivity and help in the development of areas in and around the road.

This move has brought cheers to the residents and realtors. Sandhya Kumar, a resident of Madavara, said, “The revival of the Peripheral Ring Road marks a transformative moment for those residents staying in Bengaluru’s periphery. The PRR’s strategic alignment promises seamless connectivity, linking major highways and fostering unprecedented accessibility. This enhanced connectivity is a game-changer for residents, as they can travel from one end to another. This will also open up new corridors for development and expand investment horizons. As Bengaluru rapidly grows, the PRR is not just a road; it’s a catalyst for exponential property development.”

Mukesh A, a realtor, said, “The government’s initiative to position the PRR as a business corridor signifies a paradigm shift in Bengaluru’s real estate dynamics. This visionary approach recognises the PRR not merely as infrastructure but as a catalyst for commercial development. The PRR’s alignment is set to redefine the commercial landscape, providing a strategic platform for businesses to thrive. This foresight aligns with Bengaluru’s fast-paced growth, making the PRR a pivotal driver of commercial real estate advancement.”

Realtors say that the revived Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) injects new life into Bengaluru’s real estate, particularly on the residential front. With planned connectivity and enhanced accessibility, the PRR creates a ripple effect, sparking a residential boom along its path. As the city expands, the PRR becomes a lifeline for housing projects, unlocking vast potential for property development.

Santosh Reddy, a realtor, said. “Bengaluru’s real estate is set for a transformation with the rejuvenated PRR, emerging as an investment magnet. The PRR’s status as a business corridor enhances its appeal, attracting not just local but global interest. Investors recognise the PRR as a strategic artery for growth, and its development is poised to generate a ripple effect, making Bengaluru an even more attractive destination for real estate investments on a global scale. In fact, the strategic positioning of the PRR as a business corridor is a masterstroke that will lead to increased demand for properties on both sides of the road.”

–Prakash VL

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Bagaluru - Yelahanka is well-connected to other parts of city by road, which passes through the heart of this suburb. Prominent shopping malls, movie theatres, school, and hospitals are present in proximity of this residential project
9900 698 748 | 9880 149 159

For many Bengalureans, green farmlands is where the heart is

There is a growing trend in Bengaluru with many property buyers looking to not just build concrete houses but also to go for a green farm of their choice. Ramakrishna Guru, a techie, is among the many, who finds value in living with nature. "I am scouting for land so that I can find solace in the gentle embrace of nature and invest in farmland. I want to wake up to the melodic chirping of birds, the soothing rustle of leaves, and the crisp, invigorating country air. These elements help me to destress. The green landscapes and tranquility of farmland provide an idyllic escape, promoting mental well-being and emotional rejuvenation. I want a farm land that can be my weekend retreat for unwinding, fostering a balanced and serene life," he tells BM Property.

Realtors say many Guru is one among many. "If you buy farmland, then you can cultivate a personal haven, where lush greenery, vibrant flora, and the fresh scent of earth become part of your daily life. This also allows you to reconnect with the land, fostering a profound appreciation for the wonders of the natural world. Investing in a piece of farmland isn't just a financial decision; it's an investment in the inexhaustible richness of mother nature," says Gopi Suresh, a realtor.

According to Gopi, investing in farmland is a commitment to sustainable living and self-sufficiency. "Imagine growing your own organic produce, reducing dependency on external sources, and contributing to a greener planet. Embrace eco-friendly practices on your farm to not only benefit the environment but also to enhance your overall well-being. This holistic approach to living aligns your lifestyle with nature, fostering a deep sense of harmony," Gopi says.

The latest trend is also that many are transforming their farmland near Bengaluru into the ultimate weekend getaway, creating a haven for family bonding and relaxation. "For me, weekends spent at farm lands are like escaping from the monotony of city life and trading it for open spaces, outdoor activities, and shared moments of joy. This helps me to strengthen family ties by immersing myself in nature's embrace, away from the cacophony of urban living. A farmland retreat offers the simplicity of life, where family bonds flourish, and memories are etched in the serene backdrop of the countryside," says Prasanna Kumar, a techie.

According to Kumar, there are many like him who are exploring the potential for financial growth by investing in farmland and engaging in agriculture. "This is also a plan for diversifying investment portfolios by venturing into the realm of agribusiness. Cultivating crops, exploring agricultural ventures, or participating in sustainable farming practices not only contribute to your financial well-being but also enable one to play an active role in the food production ecosystem," he says.

Realtors said that Bengalureans can transform their farmland into an educational and recreational hub, creating an immersive learning environment. "Enrich the lives of your children by imparting practical knowledge about agriculture, sustainability, and life skills. Farmlands serve as a living classroom where every day is an opportunity to learn, grow, and explore the wonders of the natural world. Engaging with local farmers. Support local initiatives, participate in sustainable agricultural practices, and create a positive social impact," adds Sangeeta Kumari, a realtor.

Sangeeta says that involvement in the rural community fosters a sense of shared responsibility, contributing to the overall well-being of the region. "Farmland investment transcends personal gains, becoming a catalyst for positive change, community resilience, and a more interconnected society," adds Sangeeta. **–Prakash VL**

> **"Farmlands serve as a live classroom where every day is an opportunity to learn, grow, and explore the wonders of the natural world**
> –Sangeeta Kumari, realtor

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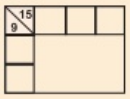
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

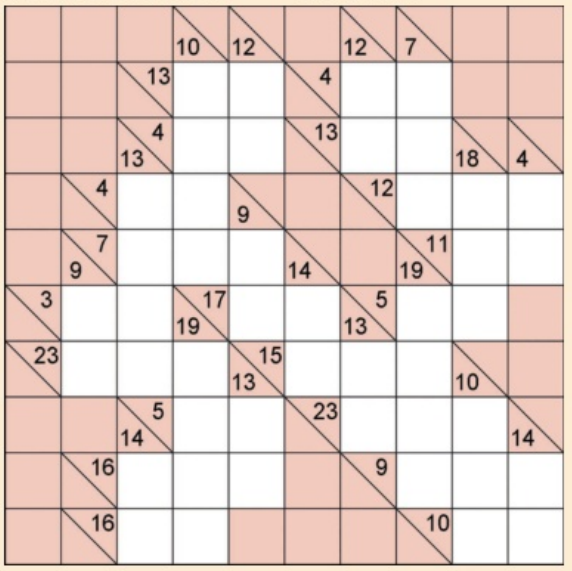
$\sqrt{25}^{-1} \div \sqrt{100}^{-1} = ?$

Kakuro

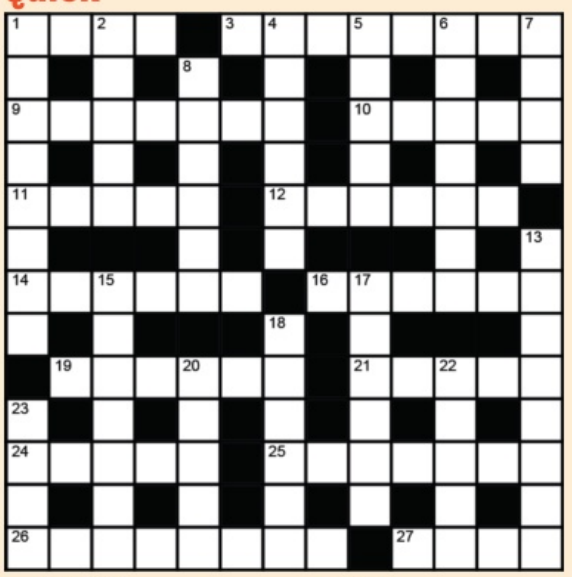
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Front of the head (4)
3 Keeps at it (8)
9 Ancient period (4,3)
10 Anger, animosity or indignation (5)
11 Brush-like growth (5)
12 Clergyman (6)
14 Curtains (6)
16 Disposes of (6)
19 Government office (6)
21 Well done! (5)
24 Caribbean Republic (5)
25 2018 FIFA World Cup finalists (7)
26 Rouse into activity (8)
27 Legal document (4)

DOWN

1 Record's reverse (4,4)
2 Church singers (5)
4 Free from liability (6)
5 Great-"purse" anagram? (5)
6 Giant Californian conifer (7)
7 Boil slowly (4)
8 Splash about? (6)
13 Sounding similar (8)
15 Using insulting language; reviling (7)
17 Park spanning 300 acres in the Cantonment Area (6)
18 Dolts or dullards (6)
20 Ogling or staring at? (5)
22 ____ one's own heart : descriptive of one who is loved or well liked? (5)
23 Indian clarified butter (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS T

PZXXHU' XCZ DJX GFXXJ XCZ VJR HE J OCGPZ PGX ZJEHZT 'U NFXXHU' HX VJDW HU.

Linemaro

You are the only one who understands my irrational excitement over some things

Mindchow

Be careful of the friends you choose for you will become like them

Joke of the day

One-armed butlers. They can take it but they can't dish it out

Loop

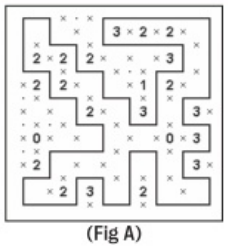
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

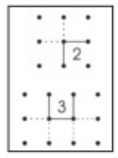
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

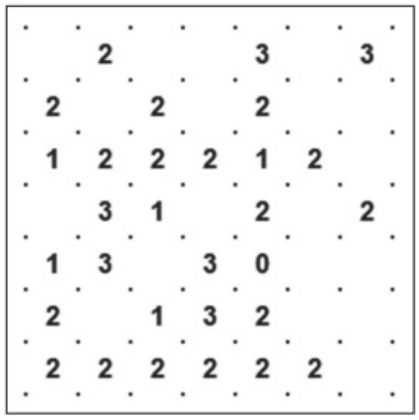
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



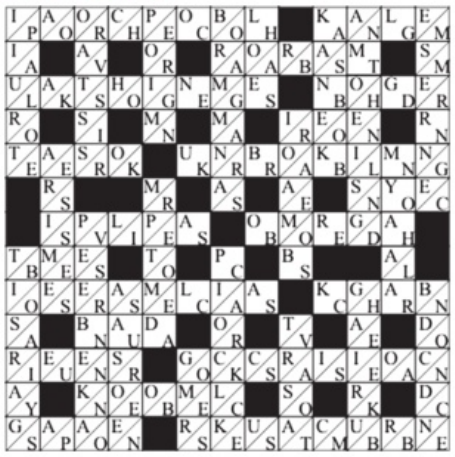
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



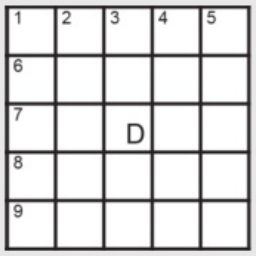
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 SS Cab; 6 Led on;
7 A dell; 8 If ell;
9 Armee

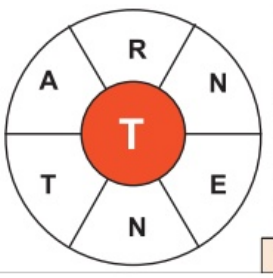
DOWN

1 Foals; 2 Malic;
3 Laded; 4 Be ell;
5 Ernes

Mensapuzzle

What letter comes next?

A, C, F, J, O, ?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

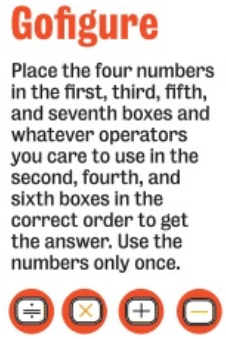
SudokuChallenge

3	5						6	
2			5	7	1			
		4					2	
	8	7	4	5				
4			9		6			7
				1	7	5	3	
	7					1		
			1	6	5			9
	2						5	6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 19
1 5 7 8

Medium = 42
3 3 4 7

Hard = 7
4 7 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

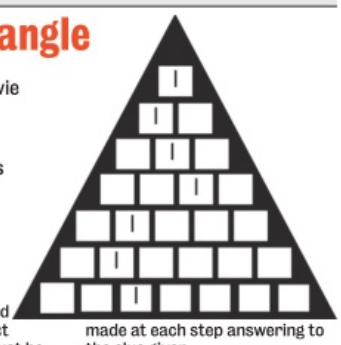
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Telephone pole is wider. 3. Window is smaller. 4. Sidewalk is wider. 5. Button is added. 6. Cap is different

Riddler

What number satisfies this requirement? Twice the number is 99 more than half of the number.

Alpha triangle

1 Egoistic letter
2 Stephen King movie
3 Convene
4 Knife cut
5 Leans
6 Forms of address
7 Bowling pin

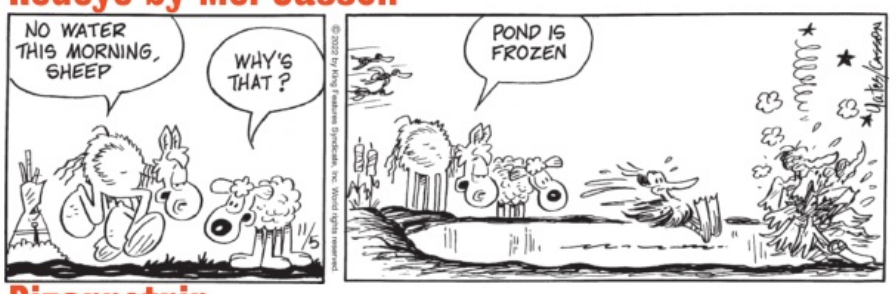


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

TOYS NEED A PLACE TO BE SAFE FROM KIDS! AND PEOPLE WHO LOVE TOYS NEED A REFUGE TOO! AND THAT'S WHAT MY DOLL HOSPITAL IS... SANCTUARY!
BUT... WHAT IF YOU'RE A KID WHO LIKES TOYS?
FIND SOMEPLACE ELSE.
www.gocomics.com

Crankshaft

I COULD NEVER FIND THE ISSUE OF 'ACTION COMICS' THAT CONTAINED THE SECOND PART OF THE 'CONGORILLA' STORY IN THIS COMIC BOOK.
I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE WONDERING HOW IT ENDED, AND THEN IT HIT ME...
EBAY!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You are blessed by the moon today; you may expect to hear some good news in terms of your profession. Domestic life is likely to be full of joy. You are advised to avoid making arguments about worthless topics. Overexcitement may test your patience. You can make important decisions when making investments in real estate. Students will be focused on their studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You will feel some dullness, but somehow you are likely to get back to your work. You may pay extra attention to a kid's academics. You are likely to be in a winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors must be careful when making difficult decisions. Job seekers may find a suitable job.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may find negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy. You should avoid making investments in worthless assets. You may notice that friends may not be supportive today. So you should not expect more from them for help; otherwise, it may make you more upset. You should make independent decisions today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel dull, and you may face obstacles in your work. You should keep your patience when making investments. Quick decisions in business are not advisable today. You are likely to spend money on worthless stuff, which may make your family unhappy.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your hard work may pay off in terms of success. You may plan to go for a short work-related visit. Your subordinates may support you in implementing your business plans. Your opponents may praise your hard work. You may hear good news in terms of siblings.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today may have good vitality and inner strength. You are likely to make good plans and may implement them efficiently. You might carefully read documents before putting a signature on them. Due to being overly enthusiastic, you may invest some capital in family businesses.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is not a good day due to anxiety and restlessness. You may waste your precious time doing worthless tasks. You may plan to visit some religious place to seek peace of mind. You may get some advice from your elders, which may show you some direction on how to manage the messy situation.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, at the social get-together, you will re-establish your network, which will give you benefits in the near future. Natives related to glamour, art, and fashion will plan to do something new in terms of their profession. Students will perform better today in terms of study. Lovebirds will enjoy their happy moments.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be busy at work, which may make you tired; you may not be able to spend proper time with family. You may be able to create some overseas networks as well. You should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get promoted.

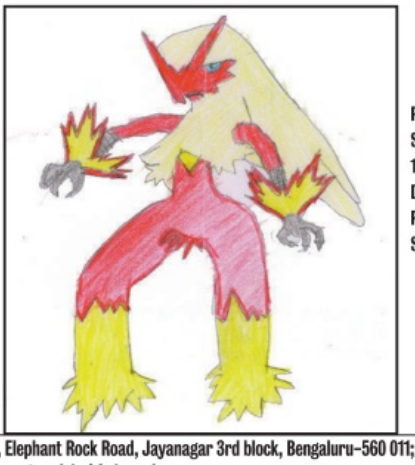
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the situation is under control. Your destiny is likely to be with you in terms of business gains. You may get some rewards for your hard work. It may be a good time to reinitiate your postponed projects. You may expect peaceful religious travel. You may also plan to donate some amount to any religious place or to some charity.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be able to control your expenditures on worthless stuff. You are likely to plan to invest capital in the business. You may invest your savings in a real estate project, which will boost your financial health in the near future. You may be polite with others. You may be able to focus on domestic affairs, but your spouse will become upset or have some health issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your moon is not in a good position, and you may have health issues. You may face losses in the business or in investments. It is advised not to invest in business. Your gains will be converted into losses. So you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies; otherwise, it will pull you down negatively.

KIDZONE

B Shre Vaishnavi, 9 Years, Greenwood High School



Paavan Sharma, 11 Years, Delhi Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(25 $^{-1}$)½ ÷ (100 $^{-1}$)½
= (1/25)½ ÷ (1/100)½
= 1/5 ÷ 1/10
= 10/5
= 2

BULL'S EYE
ante, ENTRANT, neat, rant, rate, rent, tanner, tart, tear, treat tenant, tent,

RIDDLER
66. 2 × 66 = 132 and 132 – 66 / 2 = 99.

FAST FIVE

A	M	E	E	R
L	A	D	L	E
O	L	D	E	N
S	C	A	B	S
	F	I	L	L

STRIKE OUT

P	O	O	H	P	O	O	H	K	A	L	E
I	A	R	R	A	B	A	T	M			
L	A	S	H	I	N	G	S	B	O	D	E
O	I	M	A	R	O	N	R				
T	A	S	K	U	N	R	O	B	I	N	G
R		M	S	A	N	Y	E				
I	V	I	E	S	O	M	E	G	A		
T	E	E	T	C	S	L					
I	S	R	A	E	L	I	S	K	H	A	N
A	B	A	D	R	A	V	A	O			
R	U	E	R	O	C	C	A	S	I	O	N
A	N	O	B	E	L	S	B	O	D	E	
S	P	A	N	R	E	S	T	C	U	R	E

QUICK

E	N	E	R	G	I	S	E	W	R	I	T
E		N		E		N		E		N	
H	A	I	T	I		C	R	O	A	T	A
G		S		Y		N		B		F	N
B	U	R	E	A	U		B	R	A	V	O
E		B		D		U					S
D	R	A	P	E	S		S	C	R	A	P	S
I				L		T				I	A
S	H	R	U	B		P	A	R	S	O	N
P	I		B	M		E		U		W	
I	R	O	N	A	G	E		P	I	O	U
L		H		D		X		U		E	T
F	A	C	E		P	E	R	S	I	S	T	S

MENSA PUZZLE
U: AbCdeFghi
J:klmnOpqrstU

QUOTE UNCODE
Lettin, the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in.

SUDOKU

3	5	8	2	4	9	7	6	1
2	6	9	5	7	1	4	8	3
7	1	4	6	3	8	9	2	5
1	8	7	4	5	3	6	9	2
4	3	5	9	2	6	8	1	7
6	9	2	8	1	7	5	3	4
5	7	6	3	9	2	1	4	8
8	4	3	1	6	5	2	7	9
9	2	1	7	8	4	3	5	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, It, Sit, Slit, Tilt's, Tiltles, Skittle.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 7 + 8 – 1 = 19
Medium
4 + 7 + 3 × 3 = 42
Hard
8 + 7 – 4 – 4 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

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